## COLORADO MEDICAID PROVIDES MORE THAN \$7 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL PRIMARY CARE PAYMENTS

Payments bumps are part of Affordable Care Act Implementation

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – July 3, 2013 – The <u>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</u> has approved Colorado's request for \$7.7 million in additional federal funding for supplemental payments to Medicaid physicians who primarily practice family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics. Colorado is among the first seven states to receive approval to pay the supplemental payments which are retroactive to January 1, 2013.

"This means Medicaid physicians and many advanced practice professionals, who provide primary care services, will receive increased reimbursements for the next two years for treating Medicaid patients, at no additional costs to Colorado residents," said Susan E. Birch, executive director. "These higher payments will provide an added incentive for primary care physicians to participate in Colorado Medicaid and help to support Colorado's primary care system."

Enacted as a part of the Affordable Care Act, the supplemental payments are designed to help states, like Colorado, increase their provider networks ahead of the Medicaid expansion in 2014. The supplemental payments will be funded 100 percent by the federal government from 2013 to 2015. Supplemental payments will be calculated on a quarterly basis. The first quarter that qualified for the supplemental payments was January – March 2013; Colorado has the potential to receive \$32 million in extra payments for the calendar year.

"These supplemental payment bumps can make a big difference for our primary care providers," said Judy Zerzan, chief medical officer. "We are encouraging all providers who think they may be eligible for the supplemental payments to fill out an <u>attestation form</u>. It is a short form that only takes a few minutes to fill out."

There are currently 4,116 eligible Medicaid physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants who will receive an average increase of approximately \$25 per office visit for primary care services. Eligible physicians who are enrolled in the Colorado Medicaid program and who practice primarily in family medicine, general internal medicine or pediatric medicine and who meet certain requirements, are eligible for the increased reimbursement rates. Eligible providers began receiving the supplemental payments at the end of June.

Physicians wanting to learn more, or who would like information about enrolling as a Colorado Medicaid physician can <u>click here</u>.

**About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing**: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans, families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the department, please visit <a href="Colorado.gov/hcpf">Colorado.gov/hcpf</a>.

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